

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6569

S E C R E T ASUNCION 0313

EXDIS

FOR ARA LUERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO

SUBJ: REACTION TO CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 10464

1. THE FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF
REFTEL.

2. SINCE NOVEMBER (SEE ASUNCION 4462) MY SENIOR STAFF
AND I HAVE PERIODICALLY DISCUSSED THE ANGOLAN SITUATION
WITH KEY OFFICIALS OF THE GOP. WE HAVE PASSED ON INFOR-
MATION CONCERNING THE CUBAN INTERVENTION ON THE SIDE OF
THE MPLA, DRAWING ON MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE
DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING REFTEL).

3. FOR THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT, THE CASTRO REGIME
EPITOMIZES THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN TO A COUNTRY. CASTRO
IS REGARDED AS THE DEVIL INCARNATE; PARAGUAY HAS NO
RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND UNDER PRESENT MANAGEMENT PLANS
TO HAVE NONE; TALK LAST YEAR OF A POSSIBLE
RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA WAS
RECEIVED HERE WITH OPEN DISGUST AND BLUNT CRITICISM,
ESPECIALLY FROM THE ALL-IMPORTANT MILITARY SECTOR.

4. THAT SAID, WHAT THE CUBANS ARE DOING IN FAR-OFF

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ANGOLA IS FULLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND ONLY CONFIRMS

THEIR WORST FEARS, WITHOUT ANY PROMPTING FROM US. SOME OF THE MORE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE PARAGUAYANS ARE AWARE THAT THEIR BRAZILIAN NEIGHBORS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON ON THE OPPOSITE SHORES OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, BUT GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING ANGOLA IS NOT A PART OF THE PARAGUAYAN'S SENSE OF REALITY. INFORMATION WE HAVE PASSED ON ABOUT ANGOLA, EVEN EMPHASIZING THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT, HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH ALMOST TOTAL INDIFFERENCE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A WORSE PERCEPTION OF THE CUBANS ANYWAY. WERE THE CUBANS TO SUFFER A HUMILIATION AS A RESULT OF THEIR INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THEN THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AND THE INFORMED PUBLIC MIGHT PAY CLOSER ATTENTION, AND APPLAUD.

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